Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 264607 ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 /000 R

DRAFTED BY OES:SVNOBLE:HHB APPROVED BY OES - STEPHEN V. NOBLE S/S-O:RSTEVEN

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R 010115Z DEC 79 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECRETSTATE 264607

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR SMITH

E.O. 12065:RDS 10/9/99 (HORNBLOW, MICHAEL) NEA/PAB

TAGS: IAEA, MNUC, PAR, TECH, PK, NG

SUBJECT: EKLUND'S TRIP TO NIGER

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT
QUOTE
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SECRET STATE 264607

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1. (S-ENTIRE TEXT).

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2. EKLUND HAS TOLD US EMBASSY OFFICERS IN VIENNA ABOUT HIS CONVERSATIONS IN NIGER WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE AND MINISTER OF MINES MOUNKAILA MAROUNA ON NIGER'S URANIUM EXPORT POLICY. THE MINISTER EXPLAINED TO IKLUND THAT SINCE URANIUM IS NIGER'S ONLY SIGNIFICANT EXPORT, THE GON HAD TO BE FREE TO EXPORT TO WHOMEVERWAS INTERESTED, AND THIS COULD NOT RPT NOT RESTRICT ITS MARKET BY JOINING THE NPT. THE MINISTER ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GONHADMADE THE DECISION TO REQUIRE SAFEGUARDS ON ANY SALES TO NNWS. EKLUND SAID HE PURSUED THE MATTER BY ASKING WHAT THE GON

WOULD DO IF A NNWS BUYER OFFERED TWICE THE MARKET PRICE FOR URANIUM FREE OF SAFEGUARDS. THE MINISTER RESPONDED THAT THIS BECAME A MORAL ISSUE AND THAT THE GON WOULD MAINTAIN ITS POLICY, BUT THAT NIGER WOULD NEED HELP FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO SUSTAIN SUCH A POSITION. AT EKLUND'S PROMPTING, HE THEN EXPANDED ON THE LATTER POINT BY NOTING THAT NIGER PLANNED TO ESTABLISH A MISSION IN VIENNA, AND WOULD LIKE: (1) A DESIGNATED SEAT ON THE IAEA BOARD, SINCE IT WAS AN IMPORTANT URANIUM PRODUCER AND MORE DESERVING THAN EGYPT; (2) A STAFF POSITION IN THE SECRETARIAT, WHICH EKLUND SAID HE INDICATED COULD BE ARRANGED; (3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE AGENCY; AND (4) THE AGENCY'S GOOD OFFICES IN FACILITATING BILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

- 3. IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE, EKLUND WAS TOLD THAT FOR NOW NIGER WOULD STAY OUT OF THE NPT, BUT THAT GON WOULD REVIEW ITS POSITION AFTER THE REVIEW CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR. PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED GON DECISION TO REOUIRE SAFEGUARDS ON URANIUM TO ANY NNWS.
- 4. EKLUND SAID HE COULD NOT RPT NOT LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT PAST URANIUM SHIPMENTS TO LIBYA, BUT HE WAS ASSURED SECRET

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SHIPMENTS HAD CEASED AND WOULD NOT RPT NOT RESUME UNTIL THE SAFEGUARDS ISSUE WAS RESOLVED. HE SAID THE GON CONFIRMED THAT TWO SHIPMENTS OF 50 TONS EACH HAD BEEN MADE TO PAKISTAN. (COMMENT: 100 TONS WAS LATER CONFIRMED BY GRUEMM TO BE THE AMOUNT CARRIED ON THE AGENCY INVENTORY FOR PAKISTAN. HE SAID THIS WAS THE WEIGHT OF THE URANIUM, AND THUS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN THE TONNAGE OF YELLOW CAKE. AMOUNT HAD BEEN VERIFIED ON THE SPOT IN PAKISTAN IN JUNE AND WOULD BE AGAIN IN OCTOBER. END COMMENT.) EKLUND SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE ISSUE OF THE NEGOTIATION OF A LIBYAN SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR THIS WEEK. VANCE. END QUOTE

VANCE

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 29 sep 1999 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: REPORTS, URANIUM, EXPORTS, POLICIES, SALES, VISITS, MEETINGS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, CAT-B

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 01 dec 1979 Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition Lyein.
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1979STATE264607

Document Source: ADS Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: OES:SVNOBLE:HHB

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: 12065 RDS 10/9/99 (HORNBLOW, MICHAEL) NEA/PAB

Errors: n/a **Expiration:**

Film Number: P840150-2009

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1979/newtext/t197912117/baaaffgu.tel

Line Count: 99 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation Codes.
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d4df8601-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS

Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2 Previous Channel Indicators: Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 14 feb 2006 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 199867 Secure: LOCK1 Status: NATIVE

Subject: EKLUND\'S TRIP TO NIGER

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, OVIP, TECH, PK, NG, IAEA, (EKLUND, SIGVARD)

To: NEW DELHI Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d4df8601-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014